

Western Civilization II : 1648 to the Present

Description of the Examination

The Subject Examination in Western Civilization II: 1648 to the Present covers material usually taught in the second semester of a two-semester course in Western Civilization. Questions cover European history from the seventeenth century through the post-Second World War period including political, economic, and cultural developments such as Scientific Thought, the Enlightenment, the French and Industrial Revolutions, Nationalism, Imperialism, the Russian Revolution, and the First and Second World Wars. Candidates may be asked to choose the correct definition of a historical term, select the historical figure whose political viewpoint is described, identify the correct relationship between two historical factors, or detect the inaccurate pairing of an individual with a historical event. Groups of questions may require candidates to interpret, evaluate, or relate the contents of a passage, a map, a picture, or a cartoon to other information or to analyze and use the data contained in a graph or table.

The exam is 90 minutes long and includes approximately 120 questions to be answered in two separately timed 45-minute sections.

Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the exam require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Understanding of important factual knowledge of developments in Western Civilization (about 25-35 percent of the exam)
- Ability to identify the causes and effects of major historical events (about 5-15 percent of the exam)
- Ability to analyze, interpret, and evaluate textual and graphic materials (about 20-30 percent of the exam)
- Ability to distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant (about 15-25 percent of the exam)
- Ability to reach conclusions on the basis of facts (about 10-20 percent of the exam)

The subject matter of the Western Civilization II exam is drawn from the following topics.

Approximate Percent of Examination

7-9%	<u>Absolutism and Constitutionalism, 1648-1715</u>
4-6%	<u>Competition for empire and economic expansion</u>
5-7%	<u>The scientific view of the world</u>

7-9%	<u>Enlightenment and enlightened despotism</u>
10-12%	<u>The French Revolution and Napoleonic Europe</u>
7-9%	<u>The Industrial Revolution</u>
6-8%	<u>Political developments, 1815-1848</u>
8-10%	<u>Politics and diplomacy in the Age of Nationalism, 1850-1914</u>
7-9%	<u>Economy, culture, and imperialism, 1850-1914</u>
10-12%	<u>The First World War, the Russian Revolution, and postwar Europe, 1914-1924</u>
7-9%	<u>Europe between the wars</u>
8-10%	<u>The Second World War and contemporary Europe</u>

Approximate Percent of Examination 7-9% Absolutism and Constitutionalism, 1648-1715

The Dutch Republic
The English Revolution
The France of Louis XIV
Formation of Austria and Prussia
The "westernization" of Russia

4-6% Competition for empire and economic expansion

Global economy of the eighteenth century
Western Europe after Utrecht 1713-1740
Economic and demographic change in the eighteenth century

5-7% The scientific view of the world

Bacon, Descartes, and Newton
New knowledge about the individual and society
Political theory

7-9% Enlightenment and enlightened despotism

The Philosophes
Enlightened despotism
Partitions of Poland
The British Reform Movement

10-12% The French Revolution and Napoleonic Europe

The Revolution of 1789
The Revolution and Europe
The Terror
The Constitutional Republic
The Consulate
The French Empire

The continental system
The overthrow of Napoleon

7-9% The Industrial Revolution

Causes of the Industrial Revolution
Impact of industrialization on the working and middle classes
The advent of the "isms"

6-8% Political developments, 1815-1848

- Conservative politics
- Liberalism
- Nationalism
- The Revolutions of 1830 and 1848

8-10% Politics and diplomacy in the Age of Nationalism, 1850-1914

- The Second French Empire, 1852-1870
- The unification of Italy
- The founding of the German Empire
- Austria-Hungary
- Russia
- The Third French Republic
- Socialism and labor unions
- Waning of classical liberalism
- European diplomacy, 1871-1900

7-9% Economy, culture, and imperialism, 1850-1914

- Demography
- World economy of the nineteenth century
- Technological developments
- Science, philosophy, and the arts
- Imperialism in Africa and Asia
- The Russo-Japanese War
- The Balkan Wars

10-12% The First World War, the Russian Revolution, and postwar Europe, 1914-1924

- The causes of the First World War
- The economic and social impact of the war
- The Peace of Paris, 1919
- The Revolution of 1917
- The impact of the Russian Revolution on Europe

7-9% Europe between the wars

- Stalin's five-year plans and purges
- International politics, 1919-1939
- The Great Depression
- Italy and Germany between the wars

8-10% The Second World War and contemporary Europe

- The causes and course of the Second World War
- Postwar Europe
- Science, philosophy, the arts, and religion
- Contemporary social developments

Study Resources

The study resources for Western Civilization II: 1648 to the Present are the same as for Western Civilization I: Ancient Near East to 1648.